

Today's News - Tuesday, August 13, 2013

- A shortlist of 10 (most impressive!) design teams in the Rebuild By Design Competition to develop innovative projects to protect Hurricane Sandy-affected communities.
- Ennead tapped by Peabody Essex Museum to replace Rick Mather's firm to design PEM's 175,000-square-foot expansion.
- Hawthorne spends some serious time with Zumthor on the architect's home turf: "seeing his buildings up close exposes a central paradox of his project for LACMA: the qualities that make his work so attractive "are precisely the characteristics in danger of being lost as the architect makes the transition to Wilshire Boulevard."
- A Beijing-born and based architect "has mixed emotions" re: Hadid's Galaxy Soho: she doesn't have a problem with it as architecture, but worries that "lookalikes with clumsier parodies of twists, turns and fancy parametric forms will be spreading like a rash in the city."
- Kamin has high hopes for Chicago's Navy Pier make-over: "we're finally about to see if the pier can match the High Line's exemplary mix of mass and class."
- Meanwhile, Chicago's other High Line wannabe - formerly known as Bloomingdale Trail - gets a new name: The 606 (get used to it; we'll try...).
- Another take on "rethinking Philadelphia's Boulevard of Broken Dreams" (a.k.a. Benjamin Franklin Parkway), beginning with an "insanely ambitious" 1999 plan that was "an idea that flopped" to "More Park, Less Way."
- A structural engineer says plans to rebuild Paxton's Crystal Palace "are misguided - my heart sinks to learn that its re-construction has moved a step closer."
- Chandigarh's first chief Indian architect speaks out on his 90th birthday to criticize new development proposals that "could damage Le Corbusier's City Beautiful" (and "only line the pockets of property moguls").
- Goodyear eloquently parses the "emotional impact of new skyscrapers": we may call them "grandiose, or hubristic. But you probably can't keep yourself from looking up."
- Q&A with Art Gensler re: Shanghai Tower, Asia's tallest building: "There is never going to be a building like this in the U.S."
- Hopefully, there will never be a skyscraper like one rising in Spain that, in a "monster goof," forgot to include elevator shafts to the top (47 stories - yikes!).
- Capps gives a rundown on possible new HQ for the Washington Post: "Were it to move to any of these proposed buildings, the newspaper would be taking up root in a transitional neighborhood."
- Perhaps everyone highlighted in today's news should read CUF's "Innovation and the City, Part II" report that profiles "some of the boldest and most inventive urban policy reforms of the last decade."
- One we couldn't resist: the "Top 10 Coolest Car Parks in the World" shortlist that "represents some of the most ingenious and carefully considered architecture out there."
- Call for entries: 6th Annual London International Creative Competition + John Jacob Astor Competition for best new developments, redevelopments, or mixed-use buildings.

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10 Design Teams to Proceed to Stage Two of Rebuild By Design Competition: ...will develop innovative projects to protect and enhance Hurricane Sandy-affected communities. -- Interboro Partners/New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)/TU Delft/Project Projects/Center for Urban Pedagogy/Palmbout Urban Landscapes/etc.; PennDesign/OLIN/PennPraxis/Buro Happold/E-Design Dynamics/etc.; WXY architecture + urban design/West 8/ARCADIS/Stevens Institute of Technology/Rutgers University/Parsons the New School for Design/Duke University/etc.; Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)/Royal Haskoning DHV/Balmori Associates/R/GA/etc.; HR&A Advisors/Cooper, Robertson, & Partners/Grimshaw; Langan Engineering/W Architecture/Hargreaves Associates/Alamo Architects/Urban Green Council/Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation/etc.; SCAPE/Parsons Brinckerhoff/SeARC/LOT-EK/MTWTF/etc.; MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism/Dutch Delta Collective - ZUS/De Urabisten/Delates/75B/Volker Infra Design; Sasaki Associates/Rutgers University/ARUP; Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)/One Architecture/Starr Whitehouse/James Lima/etc.; Unabridged Architecture/Mississippi State University/Waggoner and Ball Architects/Gulf Coast Community Design/etc. - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

NY firm to design Peabody Essex Museum 175,000-square-foot expansion: Ennead replaces Rick Mather Associates, the small London-based firm PEM had originally hired to do the job. - Boston Globe

Wilshire and LACMA are a new world for Peter Zumthor: [His] works show great detail and firm connection to European landscape. Can he translate to Los Angeles County Museum of Art? ...seeing his buildings up close exposes a central paradox of his project for LACMA. It makes clear that the qualities that made his work so attractive to Michael Govan...are precisely the characteristics in danger of being lost as the architect makes the transition to Wilshire Boulevard. By Christopher Hawthorne [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Meanwhile, in a Galaxy not so far away: Beijing-born Fang Fang, a director at Hawkins Brown Architects, has mixed emotions over Zaha Hadid's Galaxy Soho project: I don't have problem with [it] as architecture...I am concerned that the lookalikes with clumsier parodies of twists, turns and fancy parametric forms will be spreading like a rash in the city... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Navy Pier redesign walks the line between populist and classy: ...likely to strike a balance between accepting the pier's eclectic activity mix and transforming the 3,000-foot icon into a distinguished destination...we're finally about to see if the pier can match the High Line's exemplary mix of mass and class. By Blair Kamin -- James Corner Field Operations [images] - Chicago Tribune

Name Changer: Chicago's Bloomingdale Trail gets a new name and new looks as The 606: A new name may bring new meaning for Chicago's hotly anticipated elevated park...has a price tag of \$91 million. More than half has already been raised. [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Rethinking Philadelphia's Boulevard of Broken Dreams: ... "insanely ambitious" 1999 attempt to reimagine...Benjamin Franklin Parkway, as a higher-density urban space. "This was an idea that flopped"...city-commissioned plan, "More Park, Less Way," focuses on turning four parcels of underutilized open space into lively neighborhood parks... -- Harris Steinberg/PennPraxis - Wall Street Journal

Crystal Palace: 'It's an inspiration not a blueprint': A structural engineer argues that the Chinese/Arup plans to rebuild Crystal Palace are misguided: ...my heart sinks to learn that its re-construction has moved a step closer...to replicate it in the 21st Century seems like a poor use of the world's resources and imagination. By Brian Eckersley/Eckersley O'Callaghan -- Joseph Paxton - BD/Building Design (UK)

New Chandigarh 'could damage Le Corbusier's City Beautiful': Chandigarh's first chief Indian architect raises concerns: MN Sharma said development proposals would only line the pockets of property moguls...comments, made on his 90th birthday, came as the deputy chief minister of the Punjab approved the conceptual plan for New Chandigarh, a proposed 6,000ha suburb that is causing local dissent. - BD/Building Design (UK)

The Emotional Impact of New Skyscrapers: There is something about building a tower that is plainly irresistible to humans...You can call tall buildings and church steeples grandiose, or hubristic...But you probably can't keep yourself from looking up...changes may sting. But sometimes it's good to remember that cities are only human, after all. By Sarah Goodyear - The Atlantic Cities

"There Is Never Going To Be A Building Like This In The U.S.": Gensler...has good reason to gloat this month...Asia's tallest building...125-floor Shanghai Tower – topped off to favorable press...Q&A with 78-year-old founder Art Gensler...about the keys to the company's success in China, the outlook for Gensler's business here... - Forbes

Spanish skyscraper missing elevators in monster goof: 'Standard for the Future' or sign of current decline? What goes up must walk down. In what will surely go down in history as one the greatest architectural blunders, the town of Benidorm in Alicante, Spain, had almost completed its 47-story InTempo skyscraper when it realized it excluded plans for elevator shafts. -- Roberto Perez Guerras Architects [images] - NY Daily News

Proposals for Washington Post Headquarters Unveiled: ...has a new owner in Amazon chief Jeff Bezos, but its plans for a new headquarters are only beginning to materialize...Were [it] to move to any of these proposed buildings...the newspaper would be taking up root in a transitional neighborhood. By Kriston Capps -- HKS Architects; EE&K a Perkins Eastman Company; HOK/StreetSense/Esocoff and Associates; Davis Carter Scott; Gensler; WDG [images] - Architect Magazine

"Innovation and the City, Part II": report profiles 25 of the best policy innovations from cities across the U.S. and around the globe...identified some of the boldest and most inventive urban policy reforms of the last decade. By Adam Forman, David Giles, Neil Kleiman and Jae Ko - Center for an Urban Future (CUF) / NYU Wagner

"Top 10 Coolest Car Parks in the World": the shortlist..."represents some of the most ingenious and carefully considered architecture out there." -- Rapp & Rapp (1926); Architectenbureau Paul de Ruiter; Allies & Morrison; Herzog & de Meuron; Henriquez Partners Architects; Teresa Sapey Estudio de Arquitectura; Arquitectonica; Axel Peemoeller; Willmotte & Associes [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: 6th Annual London International Creative Competition; deadline: September 1 - London International Creative Competition (LICC)

Call for entries: John Jacob Astor Competition: new developments and redevelopments of commercial and investment property, or mixed-use buildings; no fee; deadline: September 13 - EXPO REAL / Messe München

The Blob That Could Eat Los Angeles: The history of our ill-fated Los Angeles County Museum of Art is told in "The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA": I'm a fan of Zumthor, but this building could be cool almost anywhere else. By Julie D. Taylor [images] - ArchNewsNow

Nuts + Bolts #5: Why Mid-Sized Design Firms Should Hire a Director of Operations: Hiring a DOO has the potential to significantly increase revenues while creating an environment where designers design, not manage! By Michael Bernard, AIA, and Mary Breuer - ArchNewsNow

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